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DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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COAL & STEEL 1957 BOTTLENECKS

Coal, steel and electric power are the main bottlenecks facing the development of the German Democratic Republic in the coming year, Bruno Leuschner, East German Planning Chief, stated in an important speech published in Berlin on December 28th.

Bruno Leuschner pointed out that coal and steel were in short supply all over Europe, in the capitalist countries as well as in the socialist countries. Owing to the partitioning of Germany the German Democratic Republic was in a particularly difficult position with regard to such basic raw materials; great aid in this respect had been received from the Soviet Union and would continue to be received, but even the resources of the Soviet Union were not limitless, Herr Leuschner stated.

But despite all these difficulties industrial production would continue to rise during 1957, and there would be more consumer goods for the population.

Here are some of the main points from Herr Leuschner's statement:

"We want to get a clear picture of the problems facing our economy, and the tasks that lie ahead. We should neither allow ourselves to get giddy with the successes already achieved, nor to ignore or overlook the great things which have been done by the the working people of our Republic.

"I could quote lots of figures, showing the steady improvement in our economy in the past few years, showing how the production of soft coal and electric power have doubled in the past eight years. I could show how the consumption of meat, butter, edible fat and eggs has on the average doubled in the past five years. I could tell you in detail how wages have been increased, prices reduced, and social services improved. But that has often been done in the past.

"Despite all our successes, the question is always being raised: Why do we not go ahead even faster?

"In answering this question we must not forget the past. In 1945 our economy was torn asunder. We had an engineering industry without the necessary raw materials. We had not got the raw materials necessary for light

(cont. on next page)

Hungarian Children Cared for In East Germany

The first party of Hungarian children who will spend the next few months in holiday homes in the German Democratic Republic arrived in Dresden on December 23rd. The party consisted of 193 children and nine teachers. They brought with them their Hungarian schoolbooks so that they can continue their education while away from home.

Many hundreds more boys and girls from Hungary are expected to arrive in East Germany during January.

"DEFENCE DUTIES" FOR ALL WEST GERMANS

All West German men, whatever their age or physique, may soon be conscripted for "defence duties" under legislation now in preparation, West German War Minister Franz-Josef Strauss announced on December 20th.

"It is absolutely natural that all male citizens should participate in the protection of the state" he said. "This defence service will round out the national defence forces in the framework of NATO".

War Minister Strauss announced that up to ten percent of the young men so far called up for service in the new West German Wehrmacht had failed to register. The percentage of those failing or refusing to register had varied greatly in different parts of West Germany, and was particularly high in the Ruhr industrial cities of Dortmund, Bochum, Duisburg and Essen. One in five hundred of those registering had applied for recognition as a conscientious objector, but War Minister Strauss said that the proportion of conscientious objectors was expected to rise later. Arrangements were now being made to organise some form of non-combatant corps in which objectors would be expected to serve.

U. S. Instructors

Seven hundred US officers are at present employed in West Germany in training the officers and men of the new West German Wehrmacht, the official annual report of the US Headquarters in Europe stated.

1957 BOTTLENECKS

(cont. from preceding page)

industry. Before the partitioning of Germany in 1945, 78% of the mining production lay in territory which is now in West Germany; 84% of the metallurgical industry and the steel plant lay in West Germany. This fact made our reconstruction and our further development far harder than in West Germany.

"As a result of the partitioning of the country we had to concentrate our energies on branches of industry which existed in Germany, but which were not at our disposal. We had to construct great new works like the East Iron Combine, and the Lauchhammer Coking Plant. This entailed many difficulties and sacrifices, but if we had not done it we should be in a very difficult position today, not only economically but also politically.

"But we must not overlook our difficulties. The fact is that in the whole world there is no other highly industrialised country which is so dependent upon foreign trade as our Republic. This arises from the partitioning of Germany and the resultant disproportion in our economic structure.

"The main trouble is not the fact that we have to import foodstuffs: other industrial countries are in a similar position. What is more important is the fact that we depend to a great degree on imports of such basic raw materials as rolling steel, copper, hard coal and metallurgical coke.

"Our industrial production has developed very rapidly, so that we have considerable difficulty in meeting the demands for raw material both from our own resources and from imports.. We know that we can overcome these difficulties mainly with the help of the socialist states, but this help is not limitless.

"The present situation is mainly governed by the position with regard to coal and steel. Our requirements are very big, but the consumption of these materials is also growing rapidly in the other socialist countries. That means that for the time being we cannot get as much steel and coal as we need.

"We also have to face the fact that in the Polish People's Republic the situation of the working people was not satisfactory. This led the Polish Government to make changes in the economic field, and the quantity of coal and coke earmarked for export was reduced. This has had an effect on our position with regard to raw materials, and will continue to have such an effect. If we have too little hard coal, then we have to give the railways soft coal which had been originally intended for other branches of industry. If we have too little coke, then our production of rolling steel sinks: and if there is too little steel then there are difficulties in the engineering industry, in building and in transport.

"In the future we shall have to be very economical with coal and steel. The Soviet Union is naturally helping us in this field, as it has always done in the past, but it is clear that the Soviet Union cannot do everything. We are not the only country which gets help from the Soviet Union. If we receive materials and goods from the Soviet Union which we cannot pay for for the moment, then this is at the cost of the standard of living of the Soviet workers; and the German working class cannot desire this.

"The complicated task we have to face today is that of determining the right speed of development. If we go ahead too fast we damage ourselves; and if we go ahead to slowly we damage ourselves too.

"We have to decide on the way to distribute all that we produce; what proportion should be devoted to investment, and what proportion should be devoted to individual consumption. In addition we have to decide not only how much to invest, but also in what we invest.

"We have already set ourselves targets for the improvement of the standard of living in the coming year. The increase in old-age and other pensions will increase the purchasing power of the population by over 1000 million marks. During 1957 there will be more industrial consumer goods on the market: more furniture, more light motor-cycles, more refrigerators and so on. There will also be bigger supplies of foodstuffs such as meat, fish, milk, margarine and coffee.

"Having planned the proportion available to individual consumption, we also know how much we can invest in 1957: about 6500 million marks, that is 500 million marks more than in 1956. If we want to invest more it would be at the cost of individual consumption; it is therefore understandable that some investment plans have had to be postponed.

"A very difficult problem is the question as to where we should make the investments. If we concentrated our investments on heavy industry, coal, power, chemicals, etc, there would be almost nothing left for the other branches, including housing. For this reason it will not be possible to develop heavy industry and engineering at the rate which would certainly be desirable.

"At the same time we cannot make an opposite decision, and cut sharply the investments in coal, power and engineering. This would mean mortgaging the future, and putting a brake on all economic development. We shall therefore have to concentrate our investments in those fields which are decisive both at the moment and in the future: coal, power, chemicals, building materials and housing.

"I should like to outline how we think the investment funds can best be used in the various branches of economy.

"First of all we should give absolute priority to investments needed for the maintenance of existing installations and plant.

After that, the investment objects commenced but not yet completed should be completed. We shall not begin with many new investment objects, and we shall see to it that these objects are completed quickly and utilised very promptly for the production of goods for the population and for export. We shall reassess all projects which had been planned but which would only get into production after some years.

"What can we do in the non-productive field? I think that we cannot afford for the moment to go on building at the same rate as in the past such things as administrative buildings, sports stadiums, club houses and also museums, institutes and so on. The existing buildings should be better utilised first. We should begin to be more modest in this field, as in all others. By doing this we shall be able to devote all our resources to the housing programme.

"In 1957 we shall take a big new step along our road. In the coming year industrial gross production will increase by about 3500 million marks. This is not a small task: it is a very big and difficult task, but we can do it."

NAZI GENERALS FOR BRITISH TROOPS?

A West German General will soon be named to command all troops in West Germany, including the British Army of the Rhine, the London "Sunday Pictorial" reported on December 23rd.

The newspaper named two candidates for the post, General Hans Speidel and General Adolf Heusinger.

General Hans Speidel served in high positions in the nazi Wehrmacht throughout the Second World War. In 1940 he was appointed chief of staff to the nazi occupation authorities in France.

In this position he signed the orders for the execution of hundreds of French patriots held as hostages, and for the deportation of thousands of others to the gas chambers of Auschwitz.

A "Security Situation Report", reference number 1100/42g, dated February 28th 1942, signed by Speidel, states in part:

"The following retaliatory measures were recommended in the period under review:

"In retaliation for various events and bomb attacks in Paris, six Communists and Jews were shot on February 3rd 1942. 100 Communists and Jews were transferred to Compiègne for deportation to the East... In connection with these measures orders were given that 1000 Communists and Jews in the whole occupied territory should be transferred to German custody. They are being held for deportation to the East..."

(Full details of General Speidel's activities in occupied France were given in GERMAN REPORT dated November 23rd 1956.)

Later in the Second World War General Hans Speidel was transferred to the eastern front, where he acted as chief of general staff to Wehrmacht Army Group "B", which was responsible for wholesale destruction in the occupied Ukraine. His brother, General Wilhelm Speidel, former nazi military governor in occupied Greece, was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for war crimes, but was released by the American authorities in 1951.

General Adolf Heusinger, named by the "Sunday Pictorial" as the second candidate for the command post, was chief of operations on Hitler's General Staff. In his book "Befehl im Widerstreit" published in West Germany in 1954, he attacked Hitler for not completely destroying the British army at Dunkirk. Evidence was given at the Nuremberg trials that General Heusinger had cooperated fully with the SS in its actions against civilians in the occupied areas of the Soviet Union.

"Social Democratic Prisoners" — More Details

The official East German news agency ADN released on December 21st further details in reply to West German Social Democratic allegations that "thousands of Social Democrats" are imprisoned in the German Democratic Republic, allegedly for political reasons.

The question of the prisoners was raised in September 1956 by a party of British Labour M.P.s who visited the German Democratic Republic. They requested a list of the names of such prisoners from West Berlin Social Democrats, and received a list of some 200 names, including 32 who were stated to be Social Democrats. The British Labour M.P.s passed this list on to Hermann Matern, Deputy Chairman of the East German People's Chamber, who promised a thorough investigation.

The statement issued by the ADN news agency on December 21st said in part:

"The list consisted of 205 names. A number of persons appeared twice on the list, since their names were either spelt wrongly or their birth dates were changed. 32 of the persons named on the list could not be traced anywhere in the German Democratic Republic, and their names have never been entered at any registry office. The list also included the names of 53 persons who were released from prison a long time ago.

"In the case of 33 further persons the term of imprisonment has been reduced. From the 32 persons named on the list as Social Democrats, 11 were released a long time ago, and 12 others had their sentences reduced. The investigation disclosed that amongst those sentenced there was not one whose offence could be described as a 'political offence', that is to say as a deed based upon conviction or conscience. Here are some examples:

"Otto Karl, described in the list as a Social Democrat, undertook espionage in the Leuna factory on the instructions of the 'East-Bureau' of the Social Democratic Party. He was known to the East-Bureau under the cover name of Karl Lerm. He had the task of recruiting other persons for espionage. Since the money he received from the East-Bureau was not enough for him, he also sold his espionage reports to RIAS (American-owned radio station in West Berlin) where he was known under the cover name of Mittwoch.

"Willi Hess, described on the list as a Social Democrat, undertook military espionage in Halle on the instructions of the East-Bureau.

"Friedrich Toepel, named on the Social Democratic list, was a main agent of the French and US secret services. His main task was to recruit spies in the German Democratic Republic, and he received a special premium for every person so recruited..."

LUDWIG RENN AS CHILDREN'S AUTHOR

By Ella Winter

I came upon them in the Stalin Allee: shop windows spilling over with the new Thuringian toys and children's books. When, dizzy from turning leaves and merry-go-rounds, I wandered into the street for air there was another shop — just as full. I started buying sample books, but there were too many. I saw that if I wanted to find out what East Germany is doing about this fountain-head of education I must go to the source.

So I interviewed Mr. Rodrian, young editor-publisher of "Kinderbuchverlag" in his large modern office building in the Markgrafenstrasse, with windows full of colourful posters and books of all kinds.

"You are the only children's book publishing house for Eastern Germany, of course?" I asked. "Oh no", he said happily. "We are seven. Two other State, four private houses in Berlin alone."

The biggest news to me was that Ludwig Renn, once a staff officer in Kaiser Wilhelm's Army, has at the age of 67 become a writer of children's books. This aristocrat turned Communist (his real name is Arnold Friedrich Vieth von Goltzenau) seems a most unlikely children's author; he is a tall, spare, bespectacled scholar, poet, artist, and expert in military science, as well as an archaeologist, historian and lecturer on art.

His two children's books are popular successes, "a little on the line", the publisher said, "but the children love them". "Trini", the story of an Indian boy, sold 50,000 copies; "Nobi" is the legend of a Negro boy. "Herniu and Blind Asni", coming shortly, is a story from early Germanic history, "but not in a spirit of chauvinism, of course," said Mr. Rodrian.

Editions usually run to 20,000 copies. Western and Indian stories lead in popularity. "Blauvogel" (Blue Bird), by Anna Jurgen, about a Cherokee Indian, has sold 300,000 in Eastern Germany alone.

"What about my childhood favourites — 'Max und Moritz' and 'Struwwelpeter'?" I asked.

"'Struwwelpeter' is on the market", he told me. "We are going to publish 'Max und Moritz', but only in 1958; the author will then be dead fifty years and the copyright public."

"And foreign children's books?"

"Oh yes, we translate many — Jules Verne, Fennimore Cooper, E. A. Poe, Mark Twain; we have a book of ghost stories now by Robert Louis Stevenson, Oscar Wilde and Bulwer Lytton. Modern American and English authors include Shirley Graham, Howard Fast, J. B. S. Haldane. Russian? Yes; at first we printed many Russian children's books; we couldn't afford French, American or English ones, but also the Russians put out first-rate ones that have a healthy outlook. Prischwin's 'Grey Owl' (1953) sold 50,000. We publish Arkadi Gaidar's 'Timur' tales with Leptow's illustrations, Nossow's 'Everclever'. Gorki, of course.

"But we are developing our own writers and our own illustrators, and our production is growing fast. In 1950 we had 46 titles with 1,500,000 copies; in 1954, 157 titles with just on 3 million copies, growing towards four million next year."

"Do you stress any particular kind of book?"

"No. We like anything and everything that boys and girls will like — novels and stories, tales of sportsmen, important sports events, voyages of discovery, adventure, lives of inventors and scientists. We popularise history and biography — just like other countries."

"No ideology, then?"

"Very little; we don't believe in teaching too obviously — it isn't good teaching."

I can bear him out, for I looked through hundreds of books and found only a handful with ideological leanings and even those sugar-coated. "A Walk Through Our City", for instance, takes a boy and girl by the hand and in Ilse Wagner's vivid illustrations and Werner Reinicke's verses shows them construction works placarded with "We build for freedom", a helpful Volkspolizist, a Five Year Plan with tractors and ploughs, the H.O. (Handelsorganisation — socialised department stores), the Underground starting from Thaelmann Square; but also the unpolitical zoo, railway terminal, a park, schools...

"And do you have any children's magazines?"

"Just this year we started one — a sixteen-page monthly called 'Our Robinson'. It sells for 10 pfennigs and we distribute 200,000." It is a well illustrated little sheet, with stories, scientific tales, biographies of great men, book reviews, games, puzzles and comments from children. Also "harmless" comic strips about geese or mice or ducks. Horror comics are not permitted.

(Manchester Guardian, 24. 12. 1956)

LETTER BOX

"Stefan Heym Tired and Bored"?

A factory worker in Bautzen, German Democratic Republic, has sent us the following criticism of an article by Stefan Heym, entitled "Should we Change Things?" published in GERMAN REPORT on December 7th 1956. In fairness to Mr Heym it should be pointed out that we only printed extracts from Mr Heym's article which had first appeared in an East Berlin newspaper, and that the original article did not end on the "sour note" criticised by our correspondent.

Your last issue had an article in it by Stefan Heym. The article dealt with the formation of workers' committees in the factories and other suggestions about how socialism can improve, etc. His article started out on a very optimistic bright note, but ended on a very sour one.

He concludes that some workers make very disagreeable comrades when they are elevated into high administrative jobs. He did not bother to say if these disagreeable and obnoxious comrades are exceptions or the rule. If he really has so little faith in the workers' ability and character, how can he believe that the workers' committees in the factories can do any better than those in administrative jobs. Maybe he should visit some factories for a change, and get acquainted with the workers again. His article on the whole had the markings and signs of a tired (intellectually speaking) and bored man.

D. J. C. Bautzen

"THE CAPTAIN OF COLOGNE"

Hit Film on Phoney War Criminal

There may be a big career ahead of you in West Germany if you can get yourself mistaken for a hunted war criminal. That in a nutshell is the story of the new East German colour film "The Captain of Cologne" which has been packing cinemas in the German Democratic Republic for the past few weeks.

Often in the past the comedies made by DEFA, the East German nationally-owned film company, have been painfully unfunny: but the new film, for all its unlikely theme, is extremely amusing. It is laughter with a bite, of course, but luckily most of the time the moral of the story is only implicit, not explicit.

Quite shortly, the story of the film is this: an unemployed waiter in West Germany tries to get a job at a hotel where an old soldiers' rally is in progress. He is mistaken for a nazi captain who was on the allied war criminal list and has been hiding out, and is given a royal welcome, the sort of welcome which has often been given in the past few years in West Germany to real war criminals when they return from abroad.

The young waiter does not correct the mistake, but takes all that is offered him: money, jobs, and the hand of an heiress. Finally, after a meteoric career, he finds himself ushered into public life as a member of the West German parliament.

Finally, of course, retribution catches up with him in the form of the real nazi war criminal whose identity he has willy-nilly assumed: and the young waiter is dragged off to jail, sentenced to five years imprisonment because he was not a war criminal.

All a bit unlikely, you may think: but the chilling fact is that the film is based on actual events. In the past years GERMAN REPORT has several times carried stories of impostors who made themselves good careers in West Germany by claiming to be war criminals, and who were then sent to prison on charges of false pretences when it turned out that they had not gassed anybody or executed any hostages. And even the episode of the election to the West German parliament is not invented: a former storm trooper, living under a false name, was in fact elected to the first West German parliament on an extreme right-wing ticket.

The script of the film was written by Henryk Keisch, Michael Tschesno-Hell and Slatan Dudow, and Dudow, who became famous in the early thirties for his film classic "Kuhle Wampe", has repeated his success with the first class direction of "The Captain of Cologne". It is a film which deserves to be shown in many countries: let us hope it will be.

Above: "The Captain of Cologne" launches his career at a nazi veterans rally.

Below: The phoney war criminal reaches the peak of his career; he is elected to the West German Parliament.

TACKLING MINORITY PROBLEMS IN DEMOCRATIC GERMANY

By W. B. Lockwood

(W. B. Lockwood, lecturer in German at the University of Birmingham, author of the article on this page, spent some time this year in the German Democratic Republic, studying the problems of the Sorbs, otherwise known as the Wends, a Slav minority which lives here. This article was originally printed on October 20th in the newspaper "Welsh Nation", published by Plaid Cymru at Bangor, Wales.)

Nationalism among minority peoples is one of the potent factors in politics today. Wherever it developes it takes on similar forms. The minorities endeavour to free themselves from the tutelage of a stronger neighbour, and, as part of the struggle, advance the claims of their own languages. In these islands this struggle has been a very unequal one. The same has been true for the national minorities in Germany — until recently, for since the end of the war in Eastern Germany the traditional repressive policies have been entirely reversed.

Lost Independence

80 miles S. E. of Berlin and we are in the centre of the region inhabited by the Wends, a people akin to the Poles and Czechs, whose neighbours they once were, but for centuries now the Wends have been surrounded by a completely German-speaking area. They lost their independence to German princes in the Middle Ages and germanisation began early. When the first census was taken in 1832 all that remained was a small enclave with 130,000 inhabitants.

The Wends have been a target for scorn. The Germans have ridiculed their customs and outlawed their language. Under such conditions many Wends abandoned their nationality, but all the same the Wends increased to some 170,000 in the 1860's. Then, however, a decline set in. About this time most Wends were becoming bilingual, knowing German as well as Wendish. At present the total number able to speak some Wendish will not exceed 100,000.

After the first world war the militant anti-Wendish tone of officialdom was modified. It changed to a genteel policy of "tolerance without recognition" — a policy not unknown in Wales. There was talk of cultural autonomy, but without material assistance such talk was mere phrasemongering, and the number of speakers continued to decline.

Germanisation

Then with the coming of Hitler germanisation took on a most menacing form, especially after 1937 when all Wendish organisations, religious as well as secular, were forbidden. Terrorism now entered into the process of germanisation, before which the majority inevitably capitulated. Young people ceased to use the language, children grew up without it. Then at the end of the war another danger came. Over four million displaced persons moved into Eastern Germany and the Wendish villages had to take their share. Every village had now at least a fair-sized monoglot German minority. The situation looked hopeless.

But other things were happening. The Domowina, the national organisation of the Wends, re-formed and began the campaign for the official recognition of the Wendish language. It won the support of the government who agreed to pay the Wends cultural reparations out of central state funds. In 1948 this new attitude was given legal form in the Law for the Safeguarding of the Rights of the Wendish Population. Wendish now became official for all purposes. The state undertook to encourage Wendish culture and made provision for Wendish-medium schools to be set up. A Wendish Office was created to administer the grants made by the government.

First Schools

Not all of these provisions could operate at once. Eastern Germany is economically the weaker part of the country. After the havoc of war great material shortages hindered reconstruction. In 1945 only seven Wendish-speaking teachers were available. But by 1952 the first-ever all-Wendish schools were opened. Their number is continually increasing and now there are three secondary schools also.

A visit to these latter was an impressive experience. They cater for just over 500 children, mostly boarders, whose expenses are borne by the state. As to textbooks, it will suffice to say that I saw books, in Wendish, of superb quality dealing with mathematics, biology, chemistry, history and Wendish literature for the use of the top classes of these secondary schools — of which there are precisely three!

Children are here more than usually the hope of the future. Hitherto the schools have been the main focus of germanisation, from now on they are to serve the Wendish minority and help rebuild its shattered culture. Every effort is made to persuade German parents living in the area to send their children to the Wendish school and numbers of such parents do so in the realisation that a bilingual child will do better in this part of Germany than a monoglot. In this way it is hoped to restore the Wendish character of villages threatened by germanisation. There is evidence that this is perfectly feasible.

Illiteracy

Of the first six pupils to gain the leaving certificate at the Wendish secondary school in Cottbus, only one came from a purely Wendish home. This is exceptional, but when this sort of thing can happen it indicates that the Wends are more than holding their own.

Most adult Wends are illiterate in Wendish. All the same there is a daily newspaper with a small but slowly increasing circulation. It is touching to hear of parents learning to read Wendish from their young children. There are denominational magazines (Lutheran and Catholic). There is a growing literature in Wendish, especially for children who are the biggest readers by far. All these publications are sold cheaper than comparable material in German. Incidently children may keep their Wendish school-books, which is not the case with German school-books. Street

signs and official notices are mostly bilingual by now. Court cases have been heard in Wendish (since last year). A wireless station at Gorlitz broadcasts a few hours a week in Wendish. Everywhere there are folk-song and folk-dance groups and a national ensemble with a choir one hundred strong. Like the Welsh, the Wends are great singers and their ensemble has toured as far as Mongolia.

Of course the way forward is not everywhere smooth. Not all the German population, used as they are to master-race concepts, really accept the new ideals of equality. Others are indifferent. Many Wends still suffer from an inferiority complex and hide their nationality. Others again think that should a change in administration ever come it would be better to have had nothing to do with the "Communist changes". But as things get better and life becomes easier, some of this opposition will wither away, indeed it is already doing so.

It is beyond question that this remarkable policy has gained for the East German government the good will and active support of a large number of patriotic Wends who at long last see their national aspirations coming to fruition and new vistas opening before them.

Lilo the Lufthansa Hostess

By Joan Becker

Girls who want to get out and see the wide world can now take to the air in East Germany if they are as good at languages as Lilo Schulz, air hostess with Lufthansa, civil airline of the German Democratic Republic.

Lilo is 22, tall, dark and vivacious, with a pleasant deep voice, and comes from the little town of Guestrow in Mecklenburg. She matriculated from high school and studied in the Slavonic department of Greifswald University for a year, then transferred to the Leipzig Foreign Language Institute, where she concentrated on English and Russian.

After studying there for a year she heard that Lufthansa was looking for air hostesses and she was accepted for training.

Lilo's father, an office worker, died last year and her elder brother, a transport worker, has been taking care of their mother. Her younger brother is still an apprentice and Lilo had been able to study at the university because, like more than 90 per cent of students in the German Democratic Republic, she received a stipend which was quite enough for her own needs. But of course the Lufthansa salary is very much higher, and she can now help her mother as well.

All air hostesses must have matriculated and have a good knowledge of English and Russian; it is planned to include other alternative languages later. Applicants are chosen mainly from the Leipzig Foreign Languages Institute and the minimum age is 20—24. There is no upper age limit, but it is assumed that girls over thirty will probably not want to continue as hostesses.

Air hostesses can also marry any time they wish, although when I met Lilo at the Lufthansa office and asked her about her future plans she said she did not intend to marry for at least two years, and in any case she still planned to take a university degree.

This will not be difficult for her, since she has a good start and can continue as an external student. The girls are encouraged to study further, especially languages, for there are all sorts of openings for them when they give up flying — as language teachers, in the home and foreign bureaus of Lufthansa, in East German trade delegations and in the diplomatic service at home and abroad.

Air hostesses get a twelve week training course before going to work on the air line, where they not only learn about air lines and navigation, but also political and economic geography, first aid — including what to do in case of a premature birth — food hygiene and cosmetics.

There is one test flight during training, and all the girls in Lilo's group came through this with flying colours and could start as probationary air hostesses at the end of August.

Lilo began flying the weekly Berlin—Prague—Budapest—Bucharest route; others are on the twice-weekly Berlin—Prague—Budapest—Sofia route and others on the daily Berlin—Warsaw—Moscow route. These are at present the three regular air lines of the rapidly developing young East German Lufthansa, but there are always a number of special planes in the air too.

Starting pay during training and the six-month probation period is 400 marks a month — a middle-scale secretary's salary — plus flight pay at the rate of 1 pfennig per kilometre; flying time is 80 to 100 hours a month of the 200 hours a month working time, and this brings pay up to between 700 to 800 marks a month.

The attractive made-to-measure blue-grey Lufthansa uniforms are provided free of cost; the girls also get generous expense allowances, annual holidays with pay and one free day between each flight.

At the end of her probationary period, Lilo will get her official licence and an initial increase in basic pay. She is very enthusiastic about her job, for she really likes meeting people of many countries, trying out her foreign languages and helping people over the little difficulties and anxieties of flying.

Win a New Reader

Fill in the name and address of a friend, work-mate or acquaintance on the form below, and send it to

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We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

Name .....

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BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

With this issue GERMAN REPORT goes into its sixth year of publication, so perhaps a little retrospection is indicated. When the paper was launched in January 1952, the German Democratic Republic was only just over two years old, and though it was a lusty infant, little was known about it in western countries.

Misinformation on East Germany still abounds in the western press, but in the meantime the world has become thoroughly aware of the fact that there are two Germanys — the German Federal Republic in the West, and the German Democratic Republic in the East — and most thinking people are agreed that the problem of Germanl cannot be solved by regarding West Germany as the "real Germany", which sooner or later will swallow up the East.

Small Way

We hope and trust that in our own small way we have been able to do something to inform people in the English-speaking world about what is going on in Democratic Germany, about the successes and the difficulties in building the first German state in history which is not dominated by Prussian militarists and their allies in heavy industry. And we hope that our disclosures about the come-back of the militarists and the nazis in West Germany have been useful too.

Perhaps at this time it would be useful to quote a few sentences from the leading article which appeared in the first issue of GERMAN REPORT on January 18th 1952, outlining the tasks which we had set ourselves:

"Once a fortnight, GERMAN REPORT will bring you the real news about Germany, the news which most other papers suppress — the news of the regrowth of nazism, militarism and imperialism in West Germany on the one hand, and on the other the news about the new and better Germany, about the sinking prices and rising wages and the young people who work for peace and not for war in the German Democratic Republic . . .

Facts

"In GERMAN REPORT we shall endeavour to give readers exact and objective news of the German scene today, letting facts speak for themselves.

"But GERMAN REPORT should not just provide you with interesting reading. We aim to provide you with facts and arguments which will serve you as ammunition in the campaign in your country against German remilitarisation, the campaign for the conclusion of a peace treaty with a unified, democratic and peace-loving Germany."

We hope that we have lived up to these aims in the past five years. If you are satisfied with the paper we should be glad to hear from you; if you are dissatisfied with any aspect of our work, please let us know too.

In celebrating our fifth birthday I should like to thank specially all those readers in the 77 countries to which GERMAN REPORT goes today for the help they have given us in the past; all those readers who have introduced the paper to their friends; all those readers who have devoted time and trouble to assembling lists of their acquaintances who should receive trial copies of the paper; and all those thousands of correspondents who have made valuable suggestions and given us such encouragement.

Odd Mail

On a lighter note, I should like to refer to some of the odd correspondence which we have received: it has formed only a small proportion of our big mail from all over the world, but some of it has been exceedingly odd. There was, for instance, the retired British officer who asked us to reprint his memoirs of his service in the Boer War: we could only inform him that this was not quite our field of work. Then there was the earnest gentleman living somewhere in the Middle West of the United States who sent us regular long screeds extolling Anglo-Saxon-Germanic unity in the fight against the forces of darkness, and signing himself "Jesus Christ". For some inexplicable reason he wrote his letters on strips of paper several yards long, which made them very hard to file. Incidentally some US reader may be able to inform me why a very high proportion of the "odd" letters should come from the United States.

In a different category comes the lady in Washington D. C. who regularly sends us letters about the world situation with the note that carbon copies have been sent to a selection of other persons, often including the Pope, the FBI, and Mr Chrustchov. I wonder whether the Pope is as mystified by the letters as I am.

For the information of some other correspondents, both past and potential, I should perhaps make it clear that GERMAN REPORT cannot provide them with wives ("she should be blonde and very beautiful"), or undertake to propagate their new diet systems which will ensure everlasting peace.

"Subtle"

And before closing the subject I should just like to quote once again the postcard received from a mistress at the very exclusive Roedean girls' school in Brighton, England: "Your paper is not subtle enough to deceive English people". I sincerely hope not. No deception is intended. With regard to the word "subtle" I find it hard to comment since the Pocket Oxford Dictionary defines "subtle" as: "rarefied, pervasive by tenuity, insidious, hard to analyse or define or apprehend, finely sensitive, skilled in niceties, ingeniously minute or elaborate".

We should like to be skilled and sensitive but I certainly hope we are not rarefied.

Canary

One of the big news stories in the German Democratic Republic in the past few weeks has been the new greatly increased pensions paid to the aged. Most papers published interviews, some of them very touching, with old age pensioners in which they stated what they intended to do with the extra money. I cull from the "Maerkische Volksstimme", a local paper printed in Potsdam, the following quote in which the humour is presumably unintentional:

"Old age pensioner Wilhelm Lehmann is also pleased, since he will now be able to fulfill his heart's desire and buy a canary which will brighten the evening of his life. When listening to the song of his feathered friend he will think with thankfulness of our Government."

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